

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02783 161736Z
ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEA-07 EB-04 SP-02 L-01
INR-05 INRE-00 /034 W
-----161805Z 022227 /44

O P 161635Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1671
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2783

LIMDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAIR JO US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM KING HUSSEIN ON JORDAN-US FLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: KING DEEPLY DISTURBED BY CAB DECISION TO HOLD WHAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD ARE "UNUSUAL" HEARINGS ON JORDANIAN-SYRIAN AIR SERVICE TO NEW YORK. HE WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT ONCE HEARING DATE SET A 60-DAY DELAY IS INEVITABLE. AFTER SOME CONVERSATION WITH AIRLINE PRESIDENT, KING ACCEPTED AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION NOT TO SEEK TO CANCEL CAB HEARINGS, BUT INSTEAD TO ASK THAT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE BE SET FOR HEARINGS AND WAITING PERIOD FOLLOWING HEARINGS BE CUT TO MINIMUM TIME. JORDANIAN AIRLINE STANDS TO LOSE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY WITH FURTHER DELAYS IN AIR SERVICE TO NEW YROK. WE ASSUME SAME IS TRUE FOR SYRIA. IN ADDITION, AIRLINE BELIEVES ORIGINAL 18-MONTH TRIAL FOR FLIGHTS IN BEING ARBITRARILY CUT BY DELAY IN CONSIDERING APPLICATION OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN AIRLINE FOR CERTIFICATION TO FLY TO U.S. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02783 161736Z

2. KING HUSSEIN CALLED ME MORNING MAY 16 ON TELEPHONE TO INDICATE HIS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT ADDITIONAL LAG IN TIME NOW BEING IMPOSED BY CAB ON JORDAN AND SYRIA BEFORE THE TWO CAN JOINTLY COMMENCE AIR SERVICE TO NEW YORK.

3. KING WAS DEEPLY AND PERSONALLY INTERESTED DURING

PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT JORDAN-SYRIAN APPLICATION FOR AIR SERVICE WHICH WAS PERSONALLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT FORD.

4. KING NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT CAB HAS TAKEN RATHER UNUSUAL STEP OF INSISTING ON HEARINGS IN CONNECTION WITH CERTIFYING JORDAN AND SYRIAN AIRLINES ACTUALLY TO CARRY OUT THIS SERVICE. KING IS DEEPLY TROUBLED THAT APPLICATION FOR SUCH CERTIFICATION HAS REMAINED IN HANDS OF CAB FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND THAT JORDANIANS HAVE ONLY NOW BEEN TOLD THAT HEARINGS MUST TAKE PLACE AND AT LEAST 60 DAYS WILL HAVE TO ELAPSE FROM DATE OF HEARINGS BEFORE FINAL AIRLINE CERTIFICATION CAN BE ISSUED.

5. SINCE JORDAN HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF TWO NEW 747'S TO SERVICE THIS ROUTE AND HAS SEVERAL TIMES POSTPONED INAUGURATION OF SERVICE, FURTHER DELAYS THREATEN TO REDUCE PERIOD WHICH JORDAN CAN SERVE U.S. IN LUCRATIVE SUMMER SEASON. JORDANIANS HAVE ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THEM FIRM APPLICATIONS FOR TICKETS FOR OVER 2,000 PASSENGERS BEGINNING IN MID-JULY WHEN THEY HOPE TO BEGIN SERVICE. LOSS OF THESE TICKETS AND LOSS IN CONFIDENCE WHICH IT WILL ENGENDER THROUGH CAB ACTION, HE FEELS, IS MOST DISCRIMINATORY AND UNFAIR.

6. KING INITIALLY WISHED TO ASK ME TO SEEK A CANCELLATION OF THE CAB HEARINGS. AFTER INTERVENING DISCUSSION WITH HIS AIRLINE PRESIDENT ALI GHANDOUR, AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02783 161736Z

A LATER MEETING WITH THE KING, I TOLD HIM IT WAS GHANDOUR'S IMPRESSION THAT CAB HEARINGS ONCE ANNOUNCED COULD NOT BE CANCELLED. GHANDOUR SUGGESTED TO ME AND KING FULLY APPROVED THAT I SEEK YOUR AND DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE HEARINGS AT WHICH GHANDOUR WOULD APPEAR FOR JORDAN AIRLINES AND ALSO TO REPRESENT SYRIANS WITH THEIR FULL POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PROXY. SECONDLY, KING ASKED THAT WE DO ALL POSSIBLE TO SEE THAT HEARINGS RESULT IN EARLY DECISION AND THAT DELAY OF 60 DAYS WHICH SEEMED INDICATED BY CAB BE OVERCOME IN WHATEVER WAY IT COULD.

7. I TOLD KING I WOULD RELAY HIS CONCERNS AND THOUGHTS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY UPDATE ON WHERE THIS MATTER STANDS. GHANDOUR IS READY TO COME TO U.S. ON VERY SHORT

NOTICE. WOULD APPRECIATE ALL DEPARTMENT CAN
DO TO SPEED UP TIME OF CAB HEARINGS GIVEN SPECIAL
FINANCIAL DAMAGE THIS WILL DO TO ALIA IF DELAYS ALLOWED
TO CONTINUE, AND FURTHER TO REDUCE POST-HEARING
WAITING PERIOD TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. JORDANIANS
WISH TO FLY ON OR ABOUT 11 JULY.

9. GHANDOUR ALSO TOLD ME THAT CONTINUING DELAYS
ARE MAKING A FARCE OF THE 18-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD
MANDATED BY CAB FOR THE JORDAN/SYRIA EXPERIMENT.
IF HE LOSES 1977 SUMMER SEASON, TRIAL PERIOD
WILL BE BASED ON ANTICIPATED POOR 1977 WINTER SEASON AND
1978 SUMMER WHICH WILL, HE HOPES, BE STRONG. HE
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES OF TWO
SUMMERS, WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL BE VERY PROFITABLE,
AND ONLY ONE LEAN WINTER FOR COMPARISON. ALSO, HE POINTED
OUT, IF DELAYS CONTINUE, 18- MONTH TRIAL MAY WELL BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 AMMAN 02783 161736Z

SLIMMED DOWN TO 12 OR 9 MONTHS, OR EVEN LESS.
PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR ROUTE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN02783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770173-0552
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabvzb.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2512116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FROM KING HUSSEIN ON JORDAN-US FLIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009